

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-13 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 RSR-01 /157 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2829

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08483

E.O.11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR - UK "STEERING BRIEF"

REF: STATE 143947

1. WE CALLED ON TICKELL JULY 23 TO DISCUSS UK
"STEERING BRIEF" FOR INITIAL PHASE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO BELGIAN PAPER ON PROCEDURES.

2. TICKELL NOTED THAT US AGREED WITH BRITISH THAT THERE
WAS NEED FOR COUNCIL AGREEMENT IN GENERAL TERMS ON HOW
FIRST PHASE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.
HOWEVER, HE TENDED TO DEMUR AT IDEA THAT DETAILED
DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER
COUNCIL HAS AGREED ON SUBSTANTIVE APPROACH TO MBFR
NEGOTIATIONS. HE THOUGHT SECURING COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON
SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WOULD AT BEST BE PROTRACTED AND THAT
IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FIRST TO NAIL DOWN COUNCIL
UNDERSTANDING ON HOW FIRST PHASE SHOULD BE MANAGED. HE
DID NOT HOWEVER PURSUE THIS POINT VIGOROUSLY.

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3. BRITISH DO NOT CONSIDER PROCEDURAL SECTION OF THEIR

PAPER TO BE SUBSTITUTE FOR BELGIAN PAPER, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT MUCH LIKE BELGIAN PAPER, AND HAVE ASSUMED THAT US TOO HAD OBJECTIONS TO PART OF IT. AS TICKELL PUT IT, OBJECTIVE SHOULD PROBABLY BE EFFECT MARRIAGE OF BELGIAN PAPER AND PROCEDURAL PART OF UK PAPER. HE INDICATED THAT BRITISH RECOGNIZE SENSITIVITIES OF BELGIANS AND WOULD WISH TO AVOID A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO BELGIAN PAPER.

4. BRITISH LIKE OURSELVES HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH SECTION OF BELGIAN PAPER WHICH DEALS WITH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NAC AND AD HOC GROUP. TICKELL INDICATED THAT BRITISH TOO WOULD WISH TO AVOID DEBATING MATTER IN EXPLICIT TERMS IN NAC.

5. FINALLY, TICKELL TOLD US THAT BRITISH ARE PREPARING A SUBSTANTIVE PAPER ON MBFR OUTCOMES WHICH THEY HOPE TO TABLE SOON IN NATO. PAPER IS COMPLEMENTARY TO US PAPER AND OFFERS BRITISH VIEWS ON OPTIONS DISCUSSED IN US PAPER. TICKELL SAID PAPER WAS NOT YET READY AND HE COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHEN IT WOULD BE PRESENTED. HE ASSURED US HOWEVER THAT BRITISH WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US BEFORE IT WAS PRESENTED. HE REQUESTED THAT FACT BRITISH PREPARING SUCH A PAPER BE CLOSELY HELD AT THIS TIME.

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